West German Parliamentary Leader Demands Investigation of Spy Cases

BONN, Oct. 27 (UPI)—Helmut Schmidt, parliamentary floor leader of West Germany's Social Democratic Party today demanded an investigation of what one newspaper suggested could be one of the biggest espionage cases since World War II.

In an interview with the national Sunday newspaper Welt am Sonntag, Schmidt said he would introduce a motion for a parliamentary investigation at a meeting Tuesday of SPD members of parliament.

He called "shocking" the "dilettante" way West German intelligence agencies have handled a series of espionage cases, suicides and arrests.

Welt am Sonntag, in a commentary, asked: "Does the Federal Government and the Western defense system face the discovery of one of the biggest espionage cases of post-war history?"

"This can not be glossed over," Schmidt said. "The (lack of) cooperation of the various agencies gives reason for concern."

A British Embassy spokesman in Bonn denied a story in the London Sunday Express that two senior British officials were sent to the West German capital to investigate espionage. The newspaper said vital British defense secrets had been passed to Russia through a West German espionage network.

The British spokesman said, "There in nothing to that at all."

The latest disclosures in the espionage scandal came yesterday. Authorities announced the arrest of a West German Starfighter pilot on suspicion of stealing a U.S. Sidewinder air-to-air missile from a German air force base last year, and the arrest "several weeks ago" of a female secretary in the Defense Ministry on suspicion of espionage.